

[0020] It can alternatively be provided that a gear is arranged between the threaded spindle and the motor 27. It can furthermore be alternatively provided that the slide 17 is driven to travel along the guide rail 16 by means of a toothed belt, a chain, or the like, e.g., the threaded spindle 26 shown in Figure 1.

[0022] In Fig. 1, a unit 30 is provided on slide 17, and has a non-rotatingly driven cutting tool 19. A unit 35 is furthermore shown which has the cutting tool 19, which is driven by the motor 37. The ejector 21 is arranged to the left of the cutting tool 19 of the unit 35. This ejector 21 has a movable bolt 39. The movable bolt 39 is movable in the direction toward the counter-holder 13. The ejector 21 is spaced apart from the counter-holder 13.

[0025] Furthermore, the unit 35 can alternatively be provided, the cutting tool 33, in the form of a cutting knife being driven by a motor 37. One or more units 30 or 35, which can also be provided in combination, can be selected according to the respective application. The ejector 21 is spaced apart from the units 30 or 35, as shown in Figure 1. The cutting units 30, 33 and 35 and the ejector 21 are each connected to the threaded spindle 26 by the slide 17 for movement along the guide rail 16, as shown in the upper portion of Figure 1.

[0028] The ejector 21 is arranged to the left of the cutting tool 19 of the unit 35. This ejector 21 is connected to the guide rail 16 through the ejector sleeve 41 and has a movable bolt 39 which is movable in the direction toward the counter-holder 13 or an ejector sleeve 41. As soon as, for example, the flange 18 has come into an ejector

position 24, the ejector 21 can be driven by means of a relay or by means of a control, as is known in the art, so that the bolt 39 engages in a groove 42 or in a correspondingly formed recess on the bolt 39. After this is positively arranged in the groove 42, the slide 17 can be guided over into the initial position 23, upon which the cut-off sleeve is ejected and is simultaneously guided away via a chute 43. Immediately before the end of the counter-holder 13, the bolt 39 is brought back into its initial position, so that the ejector sleeve 41 remains near the free end of the counter-holder 13, which is brought back into its initial position by loading a new tube 12 onto the counter-holder 13.

A complete set of claims currently in this application, with status indicators, is set forth on the following pages. It should be noted that there are no amendments to the claims in this submission.

1-16 (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 39, further comprising a flange that is removably fastened to said slide.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 39, wherein said ejector has a driver element extendable in a direction toward the counter-holder and engaging a seating of the ejector sleeve that is arranged to be displaceable along a counter-holder.

21. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said driver element comprises a bolt.

22. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 39, wherein a cutting knife of the at least one cutting tool is fixedly or rotatably arranged on a mounting of said slide, said rotatable arrangement having a roller bearing.

23. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 39, wherein a cutting knife of at least one cutting tool is arranged free wheeling.

24. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 39, wherein a cutting knife of the at least one cutting tool is rotatable and is driven with a preselectable rotation speed.

25. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 39, wherein said at least one cutting tool is resiliently, compliantly mounted in said flange against a feed movement of said cutting knife.

26. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said at least one cutting tool has an adjustable abutment force.
27. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 25, further comprising a recognition switch provided on said flange that senses a beginning of said tube during travel of said slide into a first cutting position.
28. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 27, wherein said recognition switch is arranged on said slide at an acute angle to an end face of said tube.
29. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 39, wherein said tube is mounted free wheeling on said counter-holder and is rotated by power-operation by a left and a right guide roller.
30. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said left and right guide roller, in the case of a tube internal diameter that is at least greater than the diameter of said counter-holder, engage on said tube in a manner such that said tube is supported on said counter-holder.
31. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said left and right guide roller, in the case of a tube internal diameter that substantially corresponds to a diameter of said counter-holder, rests on said tube in a position acting against a cutting force.
32. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 31, wherein at least one of said left and right guide roller is power-operated.
33. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 29, further comprising supporting arms on which said left and right guide rollers are pivotably arranged

around a respective shaft, which left and right guide rollers are movable by a power element and a gearwheel pair coupled to said supporting arms.

34. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said power element is driven with compressed air and an operating pressure for the positioning movement of the power element is settable.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 32, further comprising a stepping motor and a threaded spindle wherein said actuating drive comprises said stepping motor and drives said threaded spindle with an interposition of a coupling.

37. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said recognition switch comprises a proximity switch.

38. (Withdrawn) The apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said guide rollers are provided on said supporting arms which are arranged pivotably around a respective shaft and which are synchronously movable by a power element and a gearwheel pair coupled to said supporting arms.

39. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for cutting tubes comprising:  
a counter-holder arranged to receive a tube,  
said counter-holder having an ejector sleeve mounted thereon, wherein  
said ejector sleeve is movable along the counter-holder,  
at least one cutting tool that is movable to a cutting position during a  
cutting process,

a slide carrying the at least one cutting tool and carrying an ejector, having a driving element that can travel in a direction toward the counter-holder and engaging a seating of said ejector sleeve, and

a programmable control to control the movement of said slide, said cutting tool and said ejector sleeve,

wherein the cut-off lengths of tubular sleeves are freely settable by moving said cutting tool on said slide and for actuating said driving element by engaging said seating of said ejector sleeve to strip off the sleeve or sleeves from the counter-holder.

40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 39, wherein said slide is moved on said guide parallel to said counter-holder by an actuating drive in dependence on a programmable cut length of said tube.